GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:293
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
SCHEME FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FOODGRAINS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) card holders in Karnataka;

(b) whether all sections are not being adequately benefited due to high price of foodgrains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering to introduce any alternative system like Universal Public Distribution System to give benefits to all the sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): As reported by the State Government on 31.07.2007, Karnataka Government has issued ration cards to 59.83 lakhs BPL households, 46.30 lakhs to APL households and 12 lakhs ration cards to AAY households.

(b) & (c): No. Sir. Targeted PDS was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the underprivileged sections of society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had urban bias. The revival of universal PDS would result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor, since it would require substantial reduction in allocations of foodgrains for all families.

(d): question does not arise.